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CITY OF PORT ALEXANDER

MAR 16 2006

P.O. Box 8068 Port Alexander, AK 99836 907/568-2211 Fax 907-568-2211

Resolution 00-03

A resolution supporting the partial removal of the four lower Snake River Dams.

Whereas: The history and culture of the community of Port Alexander is commercial fishing. According to Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs, during the 1930's it is written that Port Alexander harbored the largest fishing fleet in Alaska, and

Whereas: Since the early 1900's Port Alexander and the waters surrounding it have traditionally been the home grounds for commercial fishing, trolling in the specific. In 1915 the first resident fish buyer established an operation at Port Alexander to serve the growing salmon troll fleet. Pacific Fisherman stated in its January 1914 annual review issue, "Next to Forrester Island, the greatest trolling activity in 1913 was at Port Conclusion and Port Alexander."

Whereas: Due to the development of our community around the troll fishery and remote setting, at present other employment opportunities virtually do not exist that could sustain a family. With the exception of a few retired people and the 3 newly operating lodges, the remainder of the community is directly or indirectly affected socially and economically by commercial fishing, and

Whereas: The community of Port Alexander as a whole will be directly impacted by any loss of chinook salmon outside of the Pacific Salmon Treaty. Any further restrictions on chinook harvest would create an intolerable hardship on our community. Lifestyles and livelihoods could be lost or seriously impaired. At risk is Port Alexander's cultural identification with its past as well as the stability and preservation of Port Alexander as a community looking forward to a secure and stable future.

Whereas: Commercial salmon trolling is an essential part of Port Alexander's local economy. The commercial salmon fishery provides sustainable jobs in our community and benefits our community and the State of Alaska in a positive way. There are troll permits in Port Alexander and year round households, and

Whereas: The commercial salmon fishery significantly contributes to the base economy of Port Alexander through its contribution of raw fish tax allotment, as well as monies received from sales tax from the fish buying

scow anchored in our harbor each summer. With further cuts to the City's revenue anticipated, the City will be increasingly dependent upon this significant contribution to our City's budget from the commercial fisheries, and

Whereas: The guided sports industry which rely also on chinook salmon as part of their business also contribute to our local economy through its contribution of bed and sales tax, as well as its contribution to the State of Alaska, and

Whereas: Alaskan fishermen, the State of Alaska, and Southeast Alaskan Communities have done an exceptional job managing the region's wild salmon fisheries, and

Whereas: Commercial, guided sport, personal use, resident sports angler and subsistence harvesters and Southeast Alaskans from all walks of life share a common interest in assuring the long-term abundance of wild salmon, and

Whereas: Port Alexander's number one priority is the health of the fisheries and the habitat and care of the environment that is essential to them. The 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement between the governments of the United States and Canada constitutes a package of mutually contingent agreements and strategies for assuring the long term abundance and safe passage of Pacific Salmon stocks, and

Whereas: The 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty chinook management plan was determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service to meet Endangered Species Act requirements for fall chinook, (Biological Opinion, December 1999), and

Whereas: Since 1981, the troll harvest in Southeast Alaska has been reduced to protect salmon from the Columbia and Snake Rivers, and

Whereas: Since 1993, the chinook salmon harvest in Southeast Alaska has been further reduced specifically to protect ESA listed Snake River Fall chinook, and

Whereas: Recent studies by NMFS determine that harvest reductions of 75% in all US marine salmon fisheries, coupled with unprecedented modifications land use in Washington and Idaho will minimally reduce the threat of extinction to Snake River fall chinook, and

Whereas: Scientific data indicates Southeast Alaska fisheries are responsible for no more than three-tenths of one per cent of the human induced mortality of the threatened Snake River fall chinook, and

Whereas: Scientific evidence reveals that primary threat of extinction of Pacific salmon is the degradation fresh water habitat, and

Whereas: Scientists estimate up to 95% of the threatened Snake River Fall chinook occurs at dams on the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and

Whereas: The four lower Snake River Dams render useless some of the best remaining habitat in the Snake River Basin, and

Whereas: Governor Tony Knowles, Southeast Alaska fishing communities and statewide fishing and conservation organizations have called for implementation of the 1999 Pacific Salmon Treaty agreement, and a commitment to "safe passage" of salmon to and from their spawning habitat in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and Alaska,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Port Alexander, in order to protect wild salmon and the thousands of Southeast Alaska families who depend on wild fish, supports the partial removal of the Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite Dams on the Snake River.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 6th day of March, 2000.

All In favor, 0 opposed abstained

Signed:

Laura Rideout
Laura Rideout, mayor

Attest:

Robert J. Smith
Robert J. Smith, city clerk